

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM
401 F STREET NW SUITE 312
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-2728

202-504-2200
202-504-2195 FAX
www.cfa.gov

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

15 April 2004

10:00 AM CONVENE, Suite 312, 401 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001-2728

I. ADMINISTRATION

- A. Approval of minutes: 18 March 2004
- B. Dates of next meetings: 20 May 2004
17 June 2004
15 July 2004

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS

- A. Department of the Treasury / U.S. Mint
 - 1. [CFA 15/APR/04-1](#), 2005 Nickel. One obverse design and two reverse designs. (Previous: CFA 16/OCT/03-Admin).
 - 2. [CFA 15/APR/04-2](#), Reverse design for 2005 platinum proof coin. (Previous: CFA 19/FEB/04- 3).
- B. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
Shipstead-Luce Act
 - 1. [S.L. 04-057](#), 555 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. The Freedom Forum. New mixed use building to house the Newseum. Concept–design development. (Previous: S.L. 03-019, reviewed 20 February 2003).

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 15 April 2004

2. S.L.04-056, American Pharmacist's Association. 2215 Constitution Avenue, NW. Rear addition. Revised concept. (Previous: S.L. 03- 106, reviewed CFA 19 June 03).

C. National Park Service

[CFA 15/APR/04-3](#), United States Marine Corps War Memorial. Arlington Boulevard and Meade Street, Arlington, Virginia. Rehabilitation of the lighting. Final.

D. National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund

[CFA 15/APR/04-4](#), National Law Enforcement Museum, Judiciary Square (Federal Reservation #7), E Street between Court Buildings E and C, and north of Old City Hall. Revised concept. (Previous: CFA 16/OCT/03- 5).

E. District of Columbia Courts / General Services Administration

1. [CFA 15/APR/04-5](#), District of Columbia Old City Hall, Judiciary Square, between D and E streets, NW. Additions and renovation for the D.C. Court of Appeals. Revised concept. (Previous: CFA 18/MAR/04- 8).
2. [CFA 15/APR/04-6](#), D.C. Court of Appeals and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. Judiciary Square, Southwest corner at Indiana Avenue and 5th Street, NW. New shared underground parking facility. Phase I - Final. (Previous: CFA 17/JUL/03- 10).

F. Department of Defense /Air Force Memorial Foundation

[CFA 15/APR/04-7](#), Air Force Memorial. Navy Annex, Columbia Pike, Arlington, Virginia. Final. (Previous: CFA 20/MAR/03- 3).

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 15 April 2004

G. Department of Defense

[CFA 15/APR/04-8](#), Fort McNair. National Defense University. New Physical Fitness Facility and modification to the Small Area Plan. Revised concept-new site. (Previous: CFA 17/JUL/03- 6).

H. Department of Agriculture

1. [CFA 15/APR/04-9](#), U.S. National Arboretum. New York Avenue and Bladensburg Road, NE. New vehicular entrance from Bladensburg Road, NE. Final.
2. [CFA 15/APR/04-10](#), U.S. National Arboretum. New York Avenue and Bladensburg Road, NE. Administration Building. Renovation and alterations. Concept. (Previous: CFA 18/FEB/ 1959).
3. [CFA 15/APR/04-11](#), U.S. National Arboretum. New York Avenue and Bladensburg Road, NE. Building 018-- Headhouse and greenhouse. Renovation of headhouse for use as office space and replacement greenhouse. Concept/Final.
4. [CFA 15/APR/04-12](#), U.S. National Arboretum. New York Avenue and Bladensburg Road, NE. Flowering Tree Walk. Concept.
5. [CFA 15/APR/04-13](#), U.S. National Arboretum. New York Avenue and Bladensburg Road, NE. New perimeter security fence. Final.

I. District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

1. Shipstead-Luce Act
 - a. S.L. 04-061, 3500 Williamsburg Lane, NW. Chinese Cultural Center of the Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China. Additions and alterations. Concept. (Previous: S.L. 04-048; 18 March 2004, Appendix II).

II. SUBMISSIONS AND REVIEWS continued, 15 April 2004

- b. S.L.04-060, 600 Maryland Avenue, SW. Boston Properties Limited Partnership (Ocean View Development Company Limited). Additions to increase a three-story wing to ten-stories. Concept. (Previous: S.L. 98-2; building design).
- c. Appendix I.

2. Old Georgetown Act

- a. O.G. 03-209, 2550 Q Street, NW. Sheridan Garage Limited Partnership. Additions and alterations. Concept. (Previous: O.G. 93-106A, reviewed CFA 29 July 1993).
- b. Appendix II.

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27 April 2004

Dear Ms. Fore:

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed designs for the obverse and reverse of the 2005 nickel at its 15 April meeting. The recommendations were as follows:

Obverse: Design #2, Jefferson close-up right profile with handwritten "Liberty". The handwritten "Liberty" did not seem appropriate or legible for the coin, and it was recommended that a classic typeface be used and the word placed along the rim or in some other suitable place on the coin.

Reverse #1: Design #2, Grazing buffalo, was recommended with no changes suggested.

Reverse #2: Design #2, Grizzly bear with triangle pattern, was recommended with no changes suggested.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

The Honorable Henrietta Holsman Fore, Director
United States Mint
801 9th Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20220

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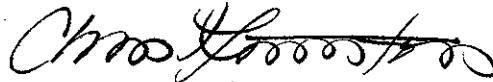
27 April 2004

Dear Ms. Fore:

The Commission of Fine Arts reviewed a reverse design for the 2005 Platinum Proof Coin at its 15 April meeting. There was no objection to the use of an eagle, but it was thought that the design was too fussy and should be greatly simplified.

We would be happy to look at another design when available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles H. Atherton", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

The Honorable Henrietta Holsman Fore, Director
United States Mint
801 9th Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20220

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27 April 2004

Dear Mr. Pritchard:

During its meeting of 15 April, the Commission approved the revised concept for a new mixed-use building designed for Freedom Forum and the new Newseum to be located at 555 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (04-057), as a wonderful addition to the city. The detailing on the First Amendment panel was inventive and will add richness and texture to the front facade. In addition, the Commission was re-assured that adjustable lights for the building and the media screens will respond appropriately to the surrounding conditions and the dignified character of Pennsylvania Avenue.

With the exception of the future perimeter security installation, which should be submitted separately for review when ready, the Commission delegates final review of the project's construction documents to the staff.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Peter Pritchard
President
The Freedom Forum
1101 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22209

cc: James Polshek, Polshek Partnership Architects
Edward M. Rogers, Nixon Peabody LLP
Judith H. Renfrew, CarrAmerica

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27 April 2004

Dear Mr. Carlstrom:

During its meeting of 15 April 2004, the Commission reviewed the proposal for the rehabilitation of the lighting for the United States Marine Corps War Memorial and approved the scheme in which the primary source of lighting for the sculpture and flag will be changed to pole mounted fixtures on the south side of the plaza, as apposed to the current system that utilizes ground level fixtures at the outer edge of the surrounding the plaza. The new scheme will also employ minimal accent lighting from the base of the sculpture to in fill any resulting shadows. The final focusing of the instruments and balancing of the light levels should be very carefully executed so that the southern and eastern sides of the sculpture appear the brightest. There should be little if any light allowed to spill beyond the monument. In addition, even though it was not discussed during the presentation, the members also encourage the Park Service to repair and rehabilitate the surrounding site and walkway lighting so that nighttime visitors to the memorial can walk the paths safely.

Please forward a copy of the final set of construction documents to the staff for our final delegated approval.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Terry Carlstrom
Regional Director, National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, DC 20242

cc: Sally Blumenthal, National Park Service
Andrew Wenchel, NPS-GWP
John C. Sarkiogu, Lighting Design Collaborative

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27 April 2004

Dear Mr. Floyd:

During its meeting of 15 April, the Commission reviewed the proposed concept for the National Law Enforcement Museum located on Judiciary Square. The revised concept continues to be a much grander composition than anticipated for the site. When combined with the numerous garden walls and the patterned of plaza surface, the above-grade pavilions create a much larger design group than individual objects in a open garden. In addition, they appear to trespass into the pedestrian street corridor to the North and the alleys to the East and West creating problems with circulation and views.

Therefore, the applicant is requested to maintain alignments with the surrounding structures rather than extend beyond the perimeters set by the existing set-backs at this historic site and make every effort to reduce the scale of the above-grade structures. Each pavilion should be of a size and design to allow it to be independent rather than dependent on other structures or hardscape elements in the landscape and encourage a sense of openness and access to the court building beyond. The surrounding landscape should be simplified to allow it to be read as a whole rather than as individual rooms. The accessible pathways to the District of Columbia Old City Hall should be more visible, direct, generous and inviting. Finally, the Commission continues to advocate a coordinated design solution for both the National Law Enforcement Museum and the Old Courthouse and suggests that the collaboration extend to the design of a combined loading dock for both facilities, which might also allow for the relocation of mechanical equipment and a further reduction in the size of the pavilions.

The Commission looks forward to further review of this project and recommends submission of a revised concept which responds to the concerns expressed and includes a proposal for signs. As always, the staff is available should you require guidance.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Craig Floyd
Chairman
National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund
400 7th Street, NW - Suite #300
Washington, DC 20004

cc: Davis Buckley, AIA

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27 April 2004

Dear Mr. McGill:

During its meeting of 15 April, the Commission reviewed and approved the revised concept for additions and renovations to the District of Columbia Old Courthouse, on Judiciary Square between D and E Streets, with some additional recommendations for study as the project develops. The revised design is very successful, creating a contemporary, accessible entrance while respecting the hierarchical relationship and historic character of the existing building. However, a simpler approach to the landscape design is suggested, including the removal of plants and trees adjacent to the building. The proposed bench should continue along three sides of the plazas. The inclusion of the water elements needs further study due to their seasonal quality. In the procession to the entrance, the steps should be as generous as possible while still enabling a correspondingly gracious accessible entry sequence. The design for the open space to north of the entrance stairs, including the proposed slope of 3.7 percent, continues to be reasonable and acceptable.

The Commission continues to advocate a coordinated design solution for both the Old Courthouse and the National Law Enforcement Museum and suggests that the collaboration extend to the design of a combined loading dock for both facilities, which might also allow for the relocation of mechanical equipment and a further reduction in the size of the museum pavilions. The Commission looks forward to further review of this project as it develops. As always, the staff is available should you require guidance.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Michael McGill
Special Assistant for Regional Coordination
General Services Administration
301 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20407-0001

cc: John Belle, Beyer Blinder Belle
Hany Hassan, Beyer Blinder Belle
Judge Wagner

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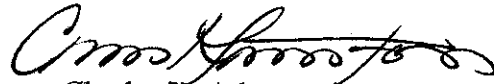
27 April 2004

Dear Mr. McGill:

During its meeting of 15 April, the Commission reviewed the final design for the new underground parking facility in Judiciary Square in the Southwest corner at Indiana Avenue and 5th Street. The required above-grade appurtenances are contemporary and pavilion-like and much smaller than expected. Some decorative banding in the exterior material might increase the gardenesque character of the structures, although a visual relationship with the 30-inch granite wall should be maintained.

As with all projects in Judiciary Square, the Commission continues to advocate a coordinated design solution and suggests that the collaboration extend to the design of a combined loading dock for the Court Buildings and the National Law Enforcement Museum. The Commission delegates final review of the project to the staff and looks forward to review of other General Services Administration projects. As always, the staff is available should you require guidance.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Michael McGill
Special Assistant for Regional Coordination
General Services Administration
301 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20407-0001

cc: John Belle, Beyer Blinder Belle
Hany Hassan, Beyer Blinder Belle
Judge Wagner

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27 April 2004

Dear Mr. Grillo:

At its meeting on 15 April the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed the final design for the Air Force Memorial to be located at the Navy Annex in Arlington, Virginia, over looking the Pentagon. The members found Mr. Freed's innovative design highly successful in integrating the symbols of the Air Force and the dynamic expression of flight. Its reference to the trajectory of aircraft in a classic maneuver with three curved pylons soaring into the sky is majestic and appropriate. The deletion of the glass inscription walls on the promontory plaza was felt to be an enhancement to the memorial in that it simplifies the overall design and provides the visitor unobstructed views of the city. The guard booths and bollards at the entrance, as well as the small support facility structure were all agreeable additions that will improve the memorial's operations.

The one element that the members felt did not enhance the memorial was the statues of the Honor Guard. In fact, the members thought that this sculptural element would ultimately detract from the dignity of the rest of the memorial's features. It was recommended that the inclusion of the sculpture be carefully reconsidered, as it was perceived that the statues may create an awkward situation during ceremonies when an actual Honor Guard is present on the memorial's Parade Ground. A bas-relief may be a viable alternative to a free-standing three-dimensional sculpture. At the very least, the sculpture, if executed, should be reduced in height to approximately human scale and be of the highest artistic quality, or abstracted so that it does not have the appearance and character of a line of over-scaled toy soldiers. If this sculpture element is not to be deleted from the memorial, and we sincerely hope it will, then the Commission wants to review the final maquette before it is cast.

As with the concept design, presented in March of 2003, the final plans, with exception of the Honor Guard sculpture, were enthusiastically and unanimously approved. The Commission looks forward to reviewing the text and graphic layout of the memorial's inscriptions in the near future. Please submit them for review when ready.

We congratulate all those involved with this undertaking and look forward to the memorial's dedication.

Sincerely,



David M. Childs
Chairman

Mr. Edward F. Grillo, Jr.
President
Air Force Memorial Foundation
1501 Lee Highway
Arlington, VA 22209-1198

cc: Dr. James G. Roche, Secretary of the Air Force
Paul K. Haselbush, Director, Real Estate and Facilities, DOD
Jerry Shiplett, Special Assistant to the Director Real Estate & Facilities, DOD
James Freed, FAIA, Pei Cobb Freed & Partners

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27 April 2004

Dear Mr. Russo:

During its meeting of 15 April 2004, the Commission reviewed the revised concept design and new site for the Physical Fitness Complex for Fort McNair in Washington, D.C. The members found the proposed new location for the facility in the northern portion of Tempo-C area to be more appropriate and approved the new site. The members also approved the revised concept design for the complex, provided that the leading edges of the roof overhangs on the gymnasium are terminated in a straight line, perpendicular to the lower roof, as shown on the model, and not on the outward curving edge as shown in the drawings. In addition, the members requested that the entrance arcade be given additional study as it was felt that its concave curve was out of character with the features of the other historic buildings in the fort. Another suggestion made during the review was to see if additional brick patterning can be incorporated into the building's large flat walls to add more visual interest. Perhaps careful study of the brick patterning used on the fort's other existing historic structures could be useful on achieving the desired effect.

The Commission would like to commend the planning and design teams for the thoroughness of the study that suggested the modifications to the fort's Small Area Plan that will allow this building to be located on the new site. The members look forward to working with the Military District of Washington as additional future projects are developed for Fort McNair. To help facilitate our review of new submissions, we would like to request an inspection trip to the fort before the next submission. The staff is available to coordinate this for the members.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

John T. Russo, Director,
Public Works and Logistics, FMMC
Military District of Washington
Headquarters
204 Lee Avenue
Fort Myer, VA 22211-1199

cc: Leonard Morton, Engineering Plans and Services Division, FMMC

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27 April 2004

Dear Dr. Elias:

The Commission has a long tradition of involvement and great interest in the development of the Arboretum. In fact, as I am sure you are aware, the Commission was instrumental in the establishment of the Arboretum in the 1920s and has continued to expect that the Arboretum would be developed using the highest design standards. During its meeting 15 April 2004, the Commission reviewed four pending projects at the National Arboretum and did not take an action on them. The proposed projects that were presented included: 1) the new vehicular entrance off Bladensburg Road, that included new entry gates, signs, guardhouse, fence, tram shelter and rest stop, as well as a reconfigured Azalea Drive and parking lot; 2) the concept design for the rehabilitation and alterations to the Administration Building; 3) the renovation of the headhouse, Building 18, for office space, and a replacement greenhouse; and 4) the concept design for the northern portion of the Flowering Tree Walk to connect the Capitol Columns to the event plaza, the Capitol Column overlook, and the Azalea Trail.

All these projects are very significant. The members raised numerous questions about the projects that were not answered during the presentations, questions that we feel can only be resolved by a site inspection. The most convenient time for the members to perform this inspection would be early in the morning before our next meeting on 20 May. The staff is available to assist you and your staff to coordinate this visit.

We look forward to the continuation of our review of these projects at our next meeting.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Dr. Thomas S. Elias
Director
U.S. National Arboretum
United States Department of Agriculture
3501 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002-1958

cc: Judy Morrison, USDA
Scott Aker, USNA

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27 April 2004

Dear Dr. Elias:

During its meeting 15 April 2004, the Commission reviewed the existing perimeter security fence that was installed on the edge of the US National Arboretum along the Anacostia River. We were disappointed that the installation occurred prior to our having an opportunity to comment on its design and to evaluate its impact on the Arboretum and the Anacostia River bank. As such, we will only consider the present installation of the fence as one of a temporary nature.

As you know, the District Government and the National Park Service continue to work on a proposed Anacostia River Waterfront Trail project. When the portion of the trail adjacent to the Arboretum is developed, that will be the time to re-evaluate the installation of the present fence. The goal should be to design a fence that is more appropriate for the Arboretum's Anacostia waterfront. It should not only provide the necessary level of security, but enhance the area so as to create a friendly and welcoming environment for those individuals on the trail. We look forward to the submission of a fence design in the near future that would meet these goals. Please rely on the assistance of the staff to help with the development of the new design.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

Dr. Thomas S. Elias
Director
U.S. National Arboretum
United States Department of Agriculture
3501 New York Avenue, NE
Washington DC 20002-1958

cc: Judy Morrison, USDA
Scott Aker, USNA